

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Clips – Sunday, March 9, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Florence Morning News: Palmetto partnership will streamline process for veterans seeking employment
http://www.scnw.com/news/article_0ccd9af8-a710-11e3-b320-0017a43b2370.html

John Russell

One day after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's proposed spending reductions to shrink the U.S. military to pre-World War II levels, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley unveiled her own plan to help the expected large influx of new veterans seeking employment. Haley announced the initiative will make South Carolina the most military-friendly state in the nation.

Associated Press: SC Gov. Haley wants to link food stamps to jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MCSBNNUv

Gov. Nikki Haley will not support an earlier proposal to keep food stamp recipients from buying junk food, instead backing an idea requiring people in three counties to show they are working or looking for a job to get the benefits. Haley's proposal will have to be approved by the federal government. It would be limited to food stamp recipients in Bamberg, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties for now.

Times and Democrat: Food stamp plan targets T&D Region

http://thetandd.com/news/food-stamp-plan-targets-t-d-region/article_6e8b22d8-a742-11e3-b291-0019bb2963f4.html

Gov. Nikki Haley will not support an earlier proposal to keep food stamp recipients from buying junk food, instead backing an idea requiring people in Bamberg, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties to show they are working or looking for a job to get the benefits. Haley's proposal will have to be approved by the federal government.

The State: How the state, leaders failed SC State

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/08/3313691/how-the-state-leaders-failed-sc.html>

Andrew Shain

There is lots of blame to go around for South Carolina State University's \$13.6 million cash shortfall, top state lawmakers and alumni say. Blame legislators and S.C. governors. The state has not provided enough money to the state's only historically black public college, critics say. Also, legislators and Gov. Nikki Haley say they that even today – after a decade of rumblings about problems – they are not sure what is going on or how to help the troubled Orangeburg school.

Note: "As always, the governor wants to know the full story before taking any action that potentially involves spending taxpayer dollars," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Sen. Vincent Sheheen plans campaign to attract women voters

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140308/ARTICLES/140309766?p=1&tc=pg>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Sen. Vincent Sheheen is hoping sisterhood doesn't exist in South Carolina politics. Sheheen is reaching out to female leaders across the state to promote his agenda on women's issues in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

Note: "As a woman, a wife, and a mother, the governor understands that the best way to raise up the women of South Carolina is to raise up all of South Carolina," Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey said in a written statement.

Note: "That's why she's tremendously proud of the fact that we're below the national unemployment average for the first time since 2001, that more South Carolinians are working today than at any point in our

history, and why she won't stop until every person in South Carolina - man, woman and child - has the opportunity they deserve."

Anderson Independent: Sheheen rallies Anderson Democrats

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/08/sheheen-rallies-anderson-democrats/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

State Sen. Vince Sheheen brought his gubernatorial campaign Saturday to Anderson and promised local Democrats big changes if he unseats Gov. Nikki Haley in November. The Camden Democrat appeared before a couple of dozen party members Saturday at the Westside Community Center, where they were meeting to choose delegates for the party's state convention in May.

Post and Courier: Is the field running against Sen. Lindsey Graham too crowded?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140308/PC16/140309392/1005/is-the-graham-field-too-crowded>

Schuyler Kropf

With a week left until the 2014 election filing period opens comes a question: Wouldn't it make sense for one of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's five GOP primary opponents to drop out? If the tea party and the ultraconservatives want to remove Graham, some political watchers say it would make sense for them to take him on with far fewer candidates in the GOP primary on June 10.

Associated Press: Democrat kicking off campaign for SC schools chief

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TEzqicgy

Democrat Montrio Belton is officially launching his campaign to be South Carolina's next schools superintendent. Belton's kicked off his campaign Saturday afternoon at Abbeville Civic Center. Belton lives in Fort Mill but grew up in Abbeville. The 40-year-old father of two children is currently working toward a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Lawsuit reforms will promote SC job growth

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/09/3311506/rawl-novinger-lawsuit-reforms.html#storylink=cpy>

Otis Rawl, Cathy Novinger

An important element to job retention and creation is developing positive conditions for businesses to prosper and grow. A 2011 improvement to the state's tort climate, allowing South Carolina to compete with other states for jobs, passed by overwhelming majorities in the Legislature, and Gov. Nikki Haley continues to be a solid proponent of improving the lawsuit climate through tort reform.

Times and Democrat: Officially or not, Ice Storm 2014 ongoing disaster

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/officially-or-not-ice-storm-ongoing-disaster/article_261689b4-a686-11e3-a9a7-001a4bcf887a.html

THE ISSUE: Damage from winter storm; OUR OPINION: Clear now that damage worse than projected and recovery will be longer than expected. One thing is certain: Cleanup and recovery from Ice Storm 2014 are going to take longer than many believed initially. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley sent a letter to President Barack Obama Tuesday asking him to declare that 21 counties, including Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun, are major disaster areas based on damage and public emergency response costs.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: State law should reinforce that shooting someone is last resort to preserve life

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140309/OPINION/403091011/1128?Title=State-law-should-reinforce-that-shooting-someone-is-last-resort-to-preserve-life>

Editorial

State Rep. Harold Mitchell and much of the Legislative Black Caucus are backing a bill that would repeal South Carolina's "stand your ground" law. The bill should provoke a necessary discussion on whether state law appropriately discourages violence.

Island Packet: Federal flood bill aims to help underwater S.C.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/08/2989370/federal-flood-bill-aims-to-help.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

We agree with a bipartisan majority of the U.S. House that a 2012 bill to overhaul and keep solvent the federal flood insurance program went too far and wreaked havoc on homeowners in flood-prone areas

including in South Carolina. A new bill, which passed the House Tuesday and still faces Senate scrutiny, correctly aims to curtail some of the damage. That includes:

The State: All is not well in the city of Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/08/3311597/bolton-all-is-not-well-in-the.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

All is not well in our capital city. People are angry and have become increasingly distrustful and suspect of their government and those they elected to oversee it. Hardly a day goes by that I don't get a call from a Columbia or Richland County resident wondering when we'll hit rock bottom — or from a Lexington County resident thankful to reside on the opposite side of the river.

Legislative Session News:

Times and Democrat: Legislator to discuss local funding, other issues Monday

http://thetandd.com/news/legislator-to-discuss-local-funding-other-issues-monday/article_f3ca1b86-a745-11e3-8dcb-0019bb2963f4.html

State Rep. Russell Ott, D-St. Matthews, will talk with Calhoun County Council members about issues before the General Assembly such as local government funding, credit card surcharges and “flow control” legislation to stop local governments from requiring residents and haulers to use government-owned landfills during a work session at 9 a.m. Monday in county council chambers.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Zais calls for flexibility in high school courses

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lxhQT7ib

Seanna Adcox

Superintendent Mick Zais says South Carolina high school students who don't plan to go to college should be able to choose more practical courses than algebra II, English literature and other classes not perceived as relevant to their life beyond the classroom.

The State: Who will stop the Dem-orrhage?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/08/3313777/the-buzz-who-will-stop-the-dem.html>

Jamie Self

Dear S.C. Democrats: The Buzz noticed you've been a little wan lately, perhaps due to the candidates you bled out last week? Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, a senator thanks to no votes ever, may waltz his way into one of the easiest incumbencies in state history after Democrat Rick Wade dropped out of the Senate race Thursday. The S.C. Republican Party said he's “too liberal for South Carolina.”

Aiken Standard: SRS explains operating with essential workforce

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140309/AIK0101/140309418/1004/srs-explains-operating-with-essential-workforce>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site is required to reduce its entire workforce into what officials call an “essential workforce” in special situations such as last month's ice storm. Bill Taylor, from SRS external affairs, said each company on the Site made their own determination as to what employees were “essential personnel.” “Essential personnel were determined on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate director or function manager,” Taylor said.

Aiken Standard: Healthcare enrollment deadline approaching

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140309/AIK0101/140309401/1007/AIK0101/healthcare-enrollment-deadline-approaching>

Teddy Kulmala

If you want to sign up for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act, time is running out. That was the message on Saturday at the Margaret J. Weston Community Health Center in Clearwater, which hosted an enrollment in the new insurance program. Open enrollment for 2014 ends on March 31, and after that, anyone wanting to enroll will have to wait until October unless they have a qualifying situation.

Anderson Independent: S.C., Ga. moving forward with Savannah River Basin changes

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/08/sc-ga-moving-forward-with-savannah-river->

[basin/?partner=RSS](#)

Michael Eads

Georgia and South Carolina are close to lining up their boating rules and regulations, according to an Anderson legislator. S.C. Rep. Don Bowen, a Republican, led a contingent of South Carolina lawmakers Friday to the Georgia State House in Atlanta. The visit was part of the continuing dialogue between the states initiated last September at an event at Big Oaks Recreation Area on Hartwell Lake.

Times and Democrat: State Treasurer Loftis visits with Lake Marion students

http://thetandd.com/lifestyles/state-treasurer-loftis-visits-with-lake-marion-students/article_13ebd002-a643-11e3-a791-0019bb2963f4.html

Students from Lake Marion High School visited with State Treasurer Curtis Loftis in his office Feb. 26, on their trip to the South Carolina State Capitol Building. Loftis gave students a tour of his office and then engaged in a conversation about the duties of the state treasurer. The treasurer took questions from the students on education funding equality, his business background and ways to improve their community.

Post and Courier: Affordable housing crisis affects many in Lowcountry, report says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140309/PC16/140309455/1006/affordable-housing-crisis-affects-many-in-lowcountry-report-says>

Prentiss Findlay

McLean is a fortunate one. For many people like her, there is a "critical" shortage of affordable housing in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties, according to a new study. Those affected include teachers, police officers and workers in the tri-county's largely service-based economy, says the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Housing Needs Assessment.

Rock Hill Herald: York Co., foundation return to negotiating table

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/08/5751752/york-co-foundation-return-to-negotiating.html#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

York County and Culture and Heritage Foundation officials will try within the next few weeks to settle an ongoing lawsuit over nearly 300 acres of land along the Catawba River that is set to be sold for \$10 million. Two sources said some York County Council members could ask for up to \$10 million to settle the lawsuit, which the county filed against the foundation last year.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Florence County penny tax battle costs taxpayers more than \$100K

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_acb014cc-a721-11e3-9d1f-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Florence County taxpayers spent \$105,213.47 on a legal battle based over a "clarification" for the re-imposition of the capital project sales tax, according to records obtained by the Morning News. Last April the South Carolina Department of Revenue engaged the county over moving forward with a referendum to renew the seven-year penny sales tax on May 1, 2014.

Post and Courier: Charleston County schools succeed, fail in efforts to attract white families to mostly minority schools

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140308/PC16/140309394/1389/charleston-county-schools-succeed-fail-in-efforts-to-attract-white-families-to-mostly-minority-schools>

Diette Courrage Casey

Karen Moore feels ashamed when she remembers how adamant she was that her son, Ellis, would not attend Haut Gap Middle School on Johns Island. This was in 2009 when the school was rated below average, 94 percent of its students were high poverty, and 12 percent of its students were white. All that Moore had heard about the school was negative.

National News:

Washington Post: Slew of changes to health-care law creates more confusion for consumers

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/slew-of-changes-to-health-care-law-creates-more-confusion-for-consumers/2014/03/08/b5c7e176-a621-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html?wprss=rss_politics

Sandhya Somashekhar

As the deadline approaches for most Americans to obtain health insurance, a flurry of changes by the Obama administration has led to a frenzied effort among employers, insurance companies, politicians and consumers to try and understand what they might mean. The latest batch of adjustments came Wednesday, when the administration disclosed that it was delaying, once again, the deadline for people with old private health plans to buy beefed-up versions required under the health-care law.

Associated Press: Rand Paul wins CPAC presidential straw poll

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_c1a3ffce-a71c-11e3-bdc1-0017a43b2370.html

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has won the Conservative Political Action Conference's presidential preference poll. The overwhelming win is purely symbolic, but reflects the Republican senator's popularity among conservatives who typically hold outsized influence in the GOP's presidential selection process.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437